



Alzheimer's State Plan, Executive Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Tuesday, December 9, 2015
Child & Family – Main Conference Room
Providence, RI 02905

Attendance:

Lt. Governor Daniel McKee
Thomas Enright, Esq., Interim Chairperson
Maria Barros, Nursing Placement
Megan Conley, representing Director Fogarty
Sandra Fournier, Seven Hills
Christine Gadbois, The Providence Center
Richard Gamache, Elmhurst Extended Care
Paula Grammas, URI Ryan Inst. For Neuroscience
Donna McGowan, Alzheimer's Assoc. RI Chapter
Kathleen McKeon, Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence
William Renehan, URI Ryan Inst.
Nassar Zawia, URI Dean of Graduate School

Craig Dwyer, Lt. Governor's Office
Andrew Allsopp, Lt. Governor's Office

Welcome & Introductions:

Lt. Governor McKee informed the group that Thomas Enright will serve as the Interim Chairperson for this newly formed Executive Board. The session began at 9:05 am with introductions of members.

Organization of Executive Board/Overview and Purpose:

Chairman Enright had a copy of the Alzheimer's State Plan on hand. The Lt. Governor's office will send a digital copy to all Board members. In the future, the state plan will be linked to the Lieutenant Governor's website.

Subgroups have met individually and will shift their focus from issue oriented to goal oriented status in order to meet criteria of the State Plan. In 2014, in some cases 2013, the Alzheimer's

subcommittees “went off the rails” and now need to get back on track and restart implementation of their goals.

Chairman Enright stated these task forces/sub-groups should select goals with minimal or no resources required (considered “low hanging fruit”) and complete them. At some point the Executive Board will solicit opinions from these groups regarding which goals they can or cannot meet and address the issue.

State Alzheimer’s Plan: Review and Time Table:

The following topics were briefly discussed:

- LGBT subcommittee is not represented on the State Plan at present. It is the only subcommittee without representation.
- Roger Williams University School of Law should have representation to ensure that legal support is available. Chairman Enright stated they are on board with participating.
- The DMV is a partner but probably does not need to be on the Executive Board. RWU law students can assist with the DMV Safe Driving initiatives.
- Donna McGowan noted that when resolutions or regulations are on the table, they can be promoted when Alzheimer’s Association hosts a day at the statehouse, using this opportunity to advocate.
- Dr. Zawia suggested revisiting some of the research goals.

In summary, this Board should solicit opinions from the subgroups regarding what they need to move forward to achieve their goals according to the State Plan.

In regards to workforce development, Richard Gamache stated that we would attain best physician practices by implementing consistent standards (MD process of diagnosis and treatment). The entire spectrum including hospitals, first responders, EMTs, and everyone who encounters an Alzheimer’s patient, should be provided with a basic training.

Kathy McKeon stated that the caregivers touch every single aspect of the plan. Respite grants through DEA are needed. The money follows the person from nursing home to nursing home. She added that the group needs administrative support to set up meetings and takes minutes. She also advocated for support at the state level to communicate Alzheimer’s work to HHS and other agencies so they are looped in.

Maria Barros and others agreed that the Board needs administrative support to help coordinate communication as well as assisting to reach out, educate and advocate.

Dr. Zawia noted we need to figure out what our research goals might be. His group has committed an IT person to the website and suggested a content committee to help build the website. With Paula Grammas’s participation, the Ryan Institute website could be a place to focus the website and be a part of the implementation plan.

A discussion on funding, specifically grants, took place. Sandy Fournier provided information about the \$1M Association of Community Living Grant they secured. This grant will focus on improving the knowledge of caregivers and train caregivers to provide better care. Integrating this initiative into the state plan will help to establish an adult health program on Alzheimer’s and make it sustainable.

URI also received a new grant for Alzheimer's education and policy. Discussion continued pertaining how to avoid competition among the groups and support cooperation.

Chairman Enright said he would like to utilize this Executive Board, not just the task force chairs adding Implementation is priority.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Dwyer
Sr. Policy Advisor to the Office of Lieutenant Governor

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